

Remembering Cpl. Matthew Edwards and Lt. Dan Kromer

A Letter of Thanks from the Taylor Police Department

The past months have been very troubling and emotional for all of us at the Taylor Police Department. We lost our brother, Cpl. Matthew Edwards, to a senseless tragedy. Then only weeks later, we lost Auxiliary Police Lt. Dan Kromer in another act of violence.

My deepest sympathy goes out to the families of Cpl. Edwards and Lt. Kromer. I pray they find comfort from their faith, family and friends during this difficult time. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as well.

I would like to thank the community of Taylor and the many people that have called, e-mailed, visited, sent flowers and food, and lent support in any way. We thank the police agencies that gave their services to our city so that our officers could grieve and attend funeral services. Our department will never be able to adequately express our gratitude for your thoughts and prayers during this dark time.

We have been supported by hundreds of law-enforcement agencies from across the country. This inspires us. But it also reminds us that we must heal, forge ahead and do our utmost to carry out our sworn duties.

While these losses are devastating for our department, remain proud of the men and women of the Taylor Police Department and Taylor Auxiliary Police.

These recent events have made us even more proud of the profession of law enforcement. Our fallen brothers died helping others. They are "heroes." At Cpl. Edwards' funeral service, it was said, "Hero is more than a word to us. It is a tribute given to those few who despite fear and despite personal danger, act with courage and coolness and generosity at the toughest of times, and sometimes at the very cost of their lives."

I, along with the entire Taylor Police Department, extend our gratitude for your support and kind sympathy in the passing of two of our brothers. It will never be forgotten. Matt and Dan will never be forgotten.

May God bless you and your families and the Taylor community.

Chief Dale Tamsen
Taylor Police Department

Officers killed in the line of duty will be linked forever

The dates of July 23 and September 7, 2010, will live in infamy in the City of Taylor.

On July 23, Taylor police Cpl. Matthew Edwards was killed in the line of duty – shot to death while investigating a reported burglary.

Just 47 days later, September 7, Taylor auxiliary police Lt. Dan Kromer was killed in the line of duty when he was struck by a car while assisting motorists on the I-94 freeway.

Two men face multiple criminal charges, including murder, and are being held in the Wayne County Jail pending trial:

In the Edwards case, the 36-year-old assailant from Westland was shot by Cpl. Edwards' partner. He was treated for his injuries and remains in custody.

In the Kromer incident, a 40-year-old Dearborn man who fled the scene of the I-94 accident was apprehended at his girlfriend's home after a tip by a Dearborn resident and exhaustive investigative work by police.

Cpl. Edwards was the first police officer killed in the line of duty in Taylor history. He had been with the Taylor Police Department since 2005 after graduating from the Detroit Police Academy and working as a Detroit police officer. He is survived by a wife and two young children.

Lt. Kromer is the only officer killed in the line of duty in the history of the Taylor Auxiliary Police – a department made up entirely of volunteers. Lt. Kromer served for 20 years. He also worked in federal protective services, guarding federal buildings. A husband and father, Kromer lived in Newport.



Lt. Dan Kromer



Cpl. Matthew Edwards

How to donate to officers' families

Memorial funds have been established for the families of Cpl. Matthew Edwards and Lt. Dan Kromer:

A private fund has been established with the Thin Blue Line of Michigan at PNC Bank for the family of Cpl. Edwards. Donations may be mailed to the Thin Blue Line of Michigan at P.O. Box 415, Howell, MI 48844. Please refer to account number 42440507084. A tax-deductible receipt will be provided.

Donations can be made to the Family of Dan Kromer in care of the Thin Blue Line at any PNC Bank, account 4244506-209.

